

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 191549Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6302

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, UK
SUBJECT: SOLAR ENERGY DEVICE

1. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY MR. PETER HUGHES OF HUGHES AND COMPANY, 33 LOWER PARK, PUTNEY HILL, LONDON SW15 REGARDING A SOLAR ENERGY APPARATUS WHICH HE HAS INVENTED. HUGHES OFFERED THE FOLLOWING CONFIDENTIAL DESCRIPTION TO ENABLE THE EMBASSY TO DESCRIBE THE DEVICE, IN ORDER THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MIGHT MAKE A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT. FOR PATENT PROTECTION REASONS, HE SAID, THIS DESCRIPTION SHOULD BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE.

2. IT IS A HIGH-TEMPERATURE SOLAR DEVICE DESIGNED TO PRODUCE SUPER-HEATED STEAM AND TO OPERATE IN THE 600 TO

1,000 DEGREES CENTIGRADE RANGE. IT HAS ALREADY BEEN OPERATED AT 1,000 DEGREES CENTIGRADE, HE SAID. HUGHES SAID IT USES OPTICAL CONCENTRATORS WHICH ACCURATELY TRACK THE SUN IN ALL PLANES BY A SIMPLE MECHANISM.

3. HUGHES SAID HE SEEKS AN INFUSION OF FUNDS FROM THE
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVICE. HE HAS WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A PROVISIONAL PATENT. WE BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION THE PROGRAM OF ENERGY-RELATED INVENTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS, BUT HUGHES SAID HE WISHES TO MEET WITH SOMEONE IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE A TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT AND COMMIT

DEVELOPMENT FUNDS. HUGHES SAID HE FREQUENTLY TRAVELS TO THE U.S. AND WOULD FLY TO WASHINGTON IF SUCH A MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED.

4. DUN AND BRADSTREET, LONDON WAS UNABLE TO TRACE HUGHES & COMPANY THROUGH THE BUSINESS NAMES REGISTRY IN L977 AND NOTED THAT THE COMPANY HAD TWO PREVIOUS COUNTY COURT JUDGMENTS AGAINST IT, TOTALING ABOUT ONE THOUSAND POUNDS STERLING. THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO UPDATE THE REPORT; WE WILL FORWARD IF ANYTHING FURTHER IS LEARNED OF MR. HUGHES AND HIS COMPANY. HUGHES TOLD US HE HAS INVENTED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE LINE PUMP (PERISTALTIC) USED IN THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND THE BURNER USED IN ELECTROLUX REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS.

5. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER AN APPROPRIATE D.O.E. OFFICIAL WISHES TO MEET WITH HUGHES, PER PARA 2 ABOVE.

STREATOR

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